

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 L-03 PA-02 MMO-01 SP-02
ICA-20 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6898

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT--PERCENTS)

USOECD

PASS TREASURY AND FEDERAL RESERVE

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: OECD, EFIN, ETRD, ELAB, AU

SUBJECT: ECONOMIC INDICATORS ON SMALLER OECD COUNTRIES:

- AUSTRIA

REF: (A) VIENNA 5170 (B) 77 VIENNA A-10

THIS REPORT PROVIDES UPDATED STATISTICS ON AUSTRIAN ECONOMIC INDICATORS TO THE EXTENT THEY WERE AVAILABLE BY JUNE 15, 1978. STATISTICS FORWARDED IN PRECEDING REPORTS, ON WHICH NO NEW DATA HAVE BECOME AVAILABLE, ARE NOT REPEATED. ITEM NUMBERING IS KEYED TO THE INITIAL REPORT.

ECONOMIC INDICATORS:

(A) OUTPUT AND DEMAND

- (3) RETAIL SALES (1973 100, REAL TERMS): 3/78:
- 108.0 -- DOWN 2.4 PERCENT FROM 3/77. JAN-MAR 78
- DECLINE OF 4.1 PERCENT (COMPARED WITH YEAR-AGO INCREASE

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- OF 6.3 PERCENT) REFLECTED 23.7 PERCENT DECLINE IN TURNOVER
- OF DURABLES, IN PARTICULAR VEHICLES (DOWN 42.5 PERCENT)
- WATCHES AND JEWELRY (DOWN 19.7 PERCENT), AND ELECTRO-
- TECHNICAL ITEMS (11.8 PERCENT LESS). TURNOVER OF NON-
- DURABLES IN THE FIRST THREE MONTHS OF THIS YEAR
- ROSE 2.9 PERCENT OVER THE COMPARABLE 1977 LEVEL, I.E.
- SLIGHTLY LESS THAN THE 4 PERCENT GAIN REGISTERED A YEAR

- AGO. MAJOR INCREASES OCCURRED IN SALES OF TOYS
- AND SPORTING GOODS (UP 14.3 PERCENT), FUELS (11.5),
- AS WELL AS OF FOODSTUFFS, TEXTILES AND CLOTHING,
- AND SHOES (AROUND 5 PERCENT).

(B) PRICE INDICES

- (1) CPI (1976 100): 5/78: 108.9 -- UP 3.8 PERCENT FROM
- 5/77 MAINLY DUE TO PRICE HIKES OF SEASONAL GOODS.
- (2) WPI (1976 100): 5/78: 105.5 -- UP 1.5 PERCENT FROM
- 5/77 MAINLY REFLECTING PRICE BOOSTS OF SEASONAL
- GOODS.
- (3) EXPORT PRICES (1971 100): 4/78: 132 -- DOWN
- 2.2 PERCENT FROM 4/77, ACCOMPANIED BY 1.4 DECLINE IN
- IMPORT PRICES TO 136.

(C) MONEY SUPPLY

- (3) REPRESENTATIVE SHORT TERM INTEREST RATE: CENTRAL
- BANK RATE UNCHANGED AT 5.5 PERCENT.

(D) CENTRAL GOVERNMENT

- (2) REVENUES (AS MILLION): 4/78: 14,266, OF WHICH NET
- RECEIPTS FROM TAXES 4,994.

(E) LABOR

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- (1) TOTAL EMPLOYMENT: 5/78: 2,738,044 P -- HIGHEST
- NUMBER EVER RECORDED IN THE MONTH OF MAY.
- (2) UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (PERCENT): 5/78: 1.6 -- RE-
- FLECTING AN UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURE OF 45,392 PERSONS
- WHICH WAS UP 23.5 PERCENT FROM 5/77 BUT 23.8 PERCENT
- LESS THAN 4/78 (59,564 R).
- (3) GUEST WORKERS: 5/78: 178,481 -- DOWN 6.4 PERCENT FROM
- 5/77.

(F) TRADE AND PAYMENTS

- (3) EXPORT VOLUME (THOUSANDS OF METRIC TONS): 4/78:
- 1,097.0
- (4) IMPORT VOLUME (THOUSANDS OF METRIC TONS): 4/78:
- 2,586.0
- (5) CURRENT ACCOUNT (AS MILLION EQUIVALENTS): 4/78:
- MINUS 3,120, COMPARED WITH MINUS 3,545 IN 4/77.
- JAN-APR 1978: MINUS 7,257 -- DOWN 46 PERCENT FROM
- 1977 REFLECTING A 13.5 PERCENT DECLINE OF THE TRADE

- DEFICIT (INCLUDING GOLD AND TRANSIT TRAFFIC);
- A 20 PERCENT INCREASE IN NET INCOME FROM TOURISM; AND
- A TREBLING OF CAPITAL IMPORTS MAINLY OF LONG TERM
- BORROWED FUNDS.

- (6) OFFICIAL FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES (AS MILLION
- EQUIVALENTS); 5/78: 72,747 -- UP 8.9 PERCENT FROM 5/77.

P PRELIMINARY

R REVISED WOLF

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